

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims as amended herein are respectfully requested.

By telephone conference with the undersigned attorney, the Examiner stated that the Gibson et al. reference cited in the Final Office Action is U.S. Patent No. 5,669,355. The telephone conference with the Examiner is appreciated.

Claims 1-5, 10-14, 18, 41-47, 50, 52-54, 58, and 59 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Gibson et al. Claims 21-25, 30-34, 36, and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Gibson et al. Claims 6-9, 15-17, 19, 20, 26-29, 35, 37-39, 48, 49, 51, 55-57, and 60 were indicated to be allowable but objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, and would be allowed if rewritten in Independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, the Applicant has amended independent claims 1, 21, and 41 to incorporate all the limitations of the allowable claims. Thus, it is submitted that independent claims 1, 21, and 41 as amended above are now in condition for allowance. Since remaining dependent claims 2-4, 7-20, 22-24, 27-40, 43, 44, 46, 47, and 49-60 are dependent on independent claims 1, 21, and 41, these dependent claims are also allowable.

Entry of the above amendments is appropriate under 37CFR§1.116 because the amendments place the application in condition for allowance without raising new issues.

Allowance of claims 1-4, 7-24, 27-41, 43, 44, 46, 47, and 49-60 as amended is requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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